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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07
H-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SPRS-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-06 TRSE-00 L-03 /106 W

P 122100Z DEC 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7796
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 4125
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1194
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OSLO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 9609
USEEC; ROME FOR VATICAN; CINCSO FOR INTAFF; CINCLANT FOR POLAD
EO 12065: GDS 12/12/86 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: DECEMBER 1-12, 1980
REF: BUENOS AIRES 9345

1. (U) SUMMARY. PEREZ ESQUIVEL'S RECEIPT OF NOBEL AND HIS
COMMENTS WERE THE MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS STORY. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN
ARGENTINA SOUGHT TO REAP MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE CEREMONY HOLDING
A DEMONSTRATION IN BUENOS AIRES. THEIR ATTEMPT TO MARCH WAS VIO-

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ENTLY BROKEN UP BY POLICE AFTER THEY PRESENTED A PETITION AT

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THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REJECTED ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS AS ANTI-ARGENTINE. THE FRG FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY TOOK A VERY TOUGH LINE WITH JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI WHEN THEY MET IN BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PEREZ ESQUIVEL GETS NOBEL: THE BIGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS IN ARGENTINA WAS THE OSLO CEREMONY IN WHICH ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL RECEIVED THE 1980 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. THE ARGENTINE PRESS -- AS OPPOSED TO TELEVISION AND RADIO WHICH LARGELY IGNORED THE EVENT-- COVERED THE AWARD AND THE EVENTS SURROUNDING IT. THESE INCLUDED THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S BOYCOTTING OF THE CEREMONY AND THE DELIVERY TO PEREZ ESQUIVEL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONGRATULATORY LETTER. PEREZ ESQUIVEL'S REMARKS IN OSLO WERE ALSO WELL REPORTED. AN ADVOCATE OF NON-VIOLENCE, HE CAME ACROSS AS WELL AS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE VIEW OF THE WORLD'S ILLS AND THEIR CURE HELD BY THE LEFT WING OF THE CHURCH. PEREZ ESQUIVEL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN QUITE RESERVED IN HIS COMMENTS ON ARGENTINA, REFUSING TO USE HIS NEW PLATFORM TO LAY ABOUT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

3. [REDACTED] ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, HOWEVER, PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT A FULL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO REAP MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE NOBEL CEREMONY. THUS, THEY PUBLISHED A PAID ADVERTISEMENT ASKING THAT THE GOVERNMENT CLARIFY THE SITUATION OF THE DISAPPEARED. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ALSO HELD A DEMONSTRATION IN THE PLAZA DEL MAYO WHICH GATHERED SEVERAL HUNDRED ACTIVISTS. THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE DEMONSTRATORS. TWENTY-SEVEN OF THE LATTER WERE ARRESTED. THE POLICE CLAIM THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS ATTACKED THE FORCES SEEKING TO BREAK UP AN ILLEGAL MARCH. OTHER OBSERVERS STATE THAT THE POLICE USED CONSIDERABLE -- EVEN EXCESSIVE -- FORCE IN DISPERSING THE MARCHERS. THE POLICE ALLOWED FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO PRESENT A PETITION AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHICH FACES THE SQUARE.

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THE PETITION REPORTEDLY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION OF THE DISAPPEARED, RECALLING THAT LAST AUGUST WHEN A SIMILAR PETITION WAS PRESENTED, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED A RAPID REPLY, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING TO DATE.

4. [REDACTED] THE USE OF FORCE TO BREAK UP THE DEMONSTRATION AND THE BOYCOTT OF THE NOBEL CEREMONY BY THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR WERE PARALLELED BY OTHER CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE GOA HAS NO INTENTION OF SATISFYING THE DEMANDS OF THE RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED THAY

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THEY BE TOLD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MISSING PERSONS. TO THE CONTRA-
RY, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT IT HAS MADE IT SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR
THAT THE DISAPPEARED ARE NOW DEAD. WE HEAR AGAIN AND AGAIN FROM
OUR GOA CONTACTS THE CLAIM THAT THE GROUPS WHICH CONTINUE TO
PRESS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE PAST ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED
AND IRREVOCABLY HOSTILE TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. EVEN THOSE
INTERLOCUTORS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT LEGITIMATE HUMAN CONCERNS ARE
AT STAKE STRESS THAT IN THEIR VIEW THESE SENTIMENTS ARE BEING
MANIPULATED BY OTHERS. THIS VIEW HOURISHES ITSELF ON THE FACT
THAT MANY OF THE MOST ACTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS PROPONENTS COME FROM
THE LEFT OF ARGENTINE POLITICS.

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JSEEC; ROME FOR VATICAN; CINCSO FOR INTAFF; CINCLANT FOR POLAD

6. [REDACTED] THE MILITARY'S HARD ATTITUDE ON THESE GROUPS WAS MOST

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RECENTLY SET FORTH PUBLICLY BY GENERAL REYNALDO BIGNONE WHO IS MOVING FROM SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARMY TO HEAD THE ARMY TRAINING COMMAND (INSTITUTOS MILITARES). BIGNONE, WHO IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE RELATIVE MODERATES IN THE ARMY AROUND VIOLA AND VIDELA, SPOKE WITH SURPRISING HARSHNESS ON ASSUMING HIS NEW COMMAND. HE SAID THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS BEING "POLITICALLY MANIPULATED." HE ASSERTED THAT "THE WORST AND MOST FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS COMMITTED BY THOSE WHO USE THIS MATTER, WHICH HAS DEEP MORAL CONTENT, FOR POLITICAL, ELECTORAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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OR SPECULATIVE REASONS." BIGNONE RECALLED THAT "NO ARGENTINE OUGHT TO...ATTACK THE FREEDOM OF HIS COUNTRY." HE WENT ON TO SAY SOME "FEW ARGENTINES" HAVE FORGOTTEN THIS AXIOM AND "WANDER ABOUT THE WORLD ATTACKING THE LIBERTY OF THE FATHERLAND AND SEEKING ALLIES IN GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS...OTHER ARGENTINES WITHIN OUR FRONTIERS LOAN THEIR NAMES AND/OR PRESTIGE, THEIR ACTIONS AND THEIR WORKS TO THIS CAMPAIGN."

6. (U) MINISTER OF INTERIOR REJECTS ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS: THE LEADERSHIP OF DAIA, THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY'S UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION, MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY DECEMBER 2. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUED A FORMAL COMMUNIQUE. THE COMMUNIQUE, REFERRING TO AN ANTI-SEMITIC TV BROADCAST IN NOVEMBER AND THE DESECRATION OF A JEWISH CEMETERY THE SAME MONTH, STATED "THAT THE ISOLATED EVENTS CAN IN NO WAY BE INTERPRETED AS EXPRESSIONS WHICH CONFORM TO THE SENTIMENTS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA SINCE THEY ARE CONTRARY TO THE PUREST TRADITIONS OF OUR NATION."

7. [REDACTED] THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DAIA CALLED UPON THE AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 11. THEY SAID THAT THE MEETING WITH HARGUINDEGUY WAS A ROTE ONE SINCE HE WAS NOT DISPOSED TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TV BROADCAST OR THE DESECRATION OF THE CEMETERIES. HOWEVER, AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION HE AGREED TO, AND THE MINISTRY'S COMMUNIQUE WAS THE RESULT. THE DAIA LEADERSHIP REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN AND OF ITSELF ANTI-SEMITIC, IT REPRESENTS A COALITION. IN THE COALITION THERE ARE THOSE WHO FOR REASONS OF CONVICTION OF STATE ARE ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO ANY SYMPTON OF OFFICIAL ANTI-SEMITISM. OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE COALITION ARE GRIPPED BY ANTI-SEMITIC ATTITUDES. THESE DIFFERENCES CAN BE SEEN IN CONTRADICTORY ACTIONS OF THE GOA: FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE RECOMMENDATION -- NOT ACCEPTED -- BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

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THAT THE FILM, THE HOLOCAUST, BE BROADCAST HERE, AND IN THE HISTORY
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OF THE VIRULENTLY ANTI-SEMITIC MAGAZINE "PAPELES", WHICH WAS
SUPPRESSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE NOVEMBER
TV BROADCAST BUT HAS NOW REAPPEARED.

8. (U) GERMAN SUBMARINE AND BRCKBATS FOR ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI:
NAVY CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL ARMANDO LAMBRUSCHINI TRAVELED
TO GERMANY VIA THE US EARLIER THIS MONTH TO ATTEND THE KEEL
LAYING OF A SUBMARINE BEING BUILT FOR THE ARGENTINES. DURING
HIS STAY IN GERMANY HE MET WITH GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HANS DIE-
TER GENSCHER. AFTER THE MEETING THE GERMANS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE
WHICH, AS READ HERE, WAS REMARKABLY TOUGH IN ITS TREATMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. ONLY ONE ARGENTINE PAPER REPORTED THIS COM-
MUNIQUE BASED ON A UP STORY. REPORTEDLY, THE GERMANS SAID THAT
THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPENT "A LONG TIME" SPEAKING ABOUT THE
FRG'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. GENSCHER, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES, ASKED
THE ARGENTINE JUNTA TO URGENTLY "MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO
EXPLAIN THE FATE OF THE DISAPPEARED." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO REPORT-
EDLY STATES THAT THE WEST GERMANS CRITICIZED ARGENTINE RESISTANCE
TO A UN RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY. ACCORDING TO UP,
THE COMMUNIQUE CHARACTERIEZED THE MEETING AS CORDIAL BUT INDICATED
THAT THE TWO MEN AGREED ON PRACTICALLY NOTHING DURING THEIR
TALK.

9. [REDACTED] WE HAVE ASKED THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY HERE ABOUT THIS RE-
PORT. THEY SAY THEY HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A COPY OF THE COMMUNI-
QUE BUT THAT ON THE BASIS OF REPORTING FROM BONN THE UP STORY
APPEARS ACCURATE.
SHLAUDEMAN
[REDACTED]

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